

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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P R 171748Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO USDOCOSOUCH

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7189

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AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7100

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, MARR, NATO, SP

SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO--CESEDEN STUDY

REF: USDOCOSOUTH 081712Z SEP 76 (NOTAL)

1. CESEDEN OFFICIALS HAVE INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT THEY ARE MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR INVITATION TO PROVIDE A BRIEFING PROGRAM IN NAPLES AND WOULD LIKE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS INVITATION. AS OF THE MOMENT, THIS IS THE ONLY EUROPEAN VISIT THEY ARE PLANNING DURING THE STUDY. (IT APPEARS THEY HAVE DECIDED NOT TO VISIT NATO HEADQUARTERS AT THIS MOMENT IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE ANY CHANCE OF CRITICISM OR REBUFF.)

2. WE BELIEVE THIS VISIT TO NAPLES WILL HAVE HIGH POTENTIAL FOR BROADENING THE OUTLOOK OF THE STUDY PARTICIPANTS REGARDING THE ALLIANCE. THE LIST OF BRIEFINGS CONTAINED IN THE REFERENCED MESSAGE IS SATISFACTORY TO CESEDEN. WE WOULD HOPE THAT, IN ELABORATING ON THESE SUBJECTS, THE BRIEFERS WOULD ATTEMPT TO EMPHASIZE THE BENEFITS TO SPAIN OF COOPERATING WITH THE ALLIANCE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA RATHER THAN FOCUSING SO MUCH

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ON THE THREAT AND PROBLEMS IN THE AREA THAT THE

IMPRESSION IS GIVEN THAT IT IS RATHER ONLY THE ALLIANCE WHICH NEEDS SPAIN.

3. IT IS PERHAPS ALSO USEFUL TO POINT OUT IN THIS RESPECT THAT, UNTIL OUR INTERVENTION WITH CESEDEN AUTHORITIES, THE ONLY TRAVEL OF THE GROUP OUTSIDE THE SPANISH MAINLAND WAS TO HAVE BEEN TO THE SPANISH ENCLAVE OF MELILLA--AN INTERESTING COMMENT ON THEIR APPROACH TO A STUDY OF SPANISH RELATIONS WITH NATO.

4. SPECIFICALLY, CESEDEN HOPES THAT, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR THE GROUP TO SPEND THE PERIOD OCT 5-10 IN ITALY, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE FLEXIBLE ABOUT THE EXACT DAYS. (A FALLBACK POSITION WOULD BE FOR A BRIEFER TRIP THE FIRST WEEK IN NOVEMBER, ALTHOUGH THIS IS FAR LESS SUITABLE FOR THEM.) THEY HAVE IN MIND DEVOTING ONE DAY OF THEIR NAPLES STAY TO TOURISM, IN ADDITION TO THE BRIEFINGS WHICH THEY ASSUME WOULD TAKE 2-3 DAYS. THEY QUERY WHETHER OR NOT IT WOULD ALSO BE POSSIBLE TO VISIT UNITS OF THE FLEET OR U.S. MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN ITALY DURING THEIR STAY.

5. THIS VISIT WOULD BE COMBINED WITH THEIR PLANNED VISIT TO THE STRAITS AREA (MELILLA). THEY HOPE THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO PROVIDE A U.S. MILITARY AIRLIFT WHICH MIGHT TAKE THEM FROM TORREJON TO NAPLES AND THENCE TO ROTA. SINCE THEY ARE OPERATING ON A VERY TIGHT BUDGET, THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE WHATEVER CONSIDERATION CAN BE GIVEN TO THIS REQUEST.

6. THEY ALSO INQUIRE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT VOQ FACILITIES WOULD BE AVAILABLE OR ANY DISCOUNTS CAN BE OBTAINED AT HOTELS IN ITALY. WE WILL ALSO WANT TO PROVIDE THEM WITH A RECOMMENDATION AS TO DRESS. (WILL UNIFORMS BE ADVISABLE?)

7. THE GROUP WILL NUMBER CLOSE TO, BUT NOT MORE THAN 30 PERSONS. IN VIEW OF THE SHORTNESS OF TIME, THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE RESPONSE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
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